

Environmental Management Institute

What you need to know, but have no way of knowing

As a local municipal official or decision-maker, federal and state laws require you to know all sorts of things that you have no way of knowing. This is particularly true with environmental issues. Your community, like many others, probably has limited resources to handle environmental problems. Where can you learn more and find help in understanding environmental regulations, permit requirements, compliance and enforcement actions? What resources are available to you for solving ongoing problems or preventing issues from becoming problems?

Environmental problems can cause harm to your residents, hinder your local economy, get you and your community sued or fined, and they are expensive to correct once they have done their damage. The EMI workshops cover a broad range of topics that can help you avoid problems, protect you and your residents, and save your community money. What does EMI offer that you need? Take a look at the topics described below; we're sure you will find variety of reasons to attend a workshop soon.

Topic Agendas and Descriptions

Local and Regional Issues

The DNR regional office director for your area will lead a discussion of local and regional issues.

Planning

Why plan?

Types of planning

Technical, Managerial and Financial (TMF) capacity

Other action generating techniques

Your community will grow or shrink, produce stormwater runoff, wear out your water and sewer plants, and generate wastes whether you plan for these events or not. Proper planning is essential.

Public Meetings

Why meet?

Meetings and alternatives

Citizen involvement

Meeting planning and management

Not an environmental issue? Environmental problems your community encounters will involve, and sometimes require, public meetings. If your public meetings do not go well, finding solutions to problems becomes more difficult. Don't face a public meeting without knowing what to expect.

Sunshine Law

What is the Sunshine Law?

Who must abide by the Sunshine Law?

What is a public meeting? A public record?

Are there exceptions?

How is the Sunshine Law enforced?

Not an environmental issue? The Sunshine Law governs all public meetings and records, including those on environmental issues. In late 1999, the State Auditor tested Missouri municipalities on Sunshine Law compliance. Forty-seven percent failed! Learn all about the Sunshine Law and find out how easy it can be to comply.

Solid and Hazardous Waste

What is Solid Waste? What is Hazardous Waste?

Do you have 'contaminated' or 'suspect' properties needing cleanup in your community?

How can you assure a clean future for your locale?

What are the benefits of instituting your own Local Environmental Enforcement Program (LEEP)?

Does solid/hazardous waste affect your community? You bet it does! This topic will help you learn how to deal with solid and hazardous waste issues affecting your community.

Wastewater

Collection and treatment
Permit limits
Problem solutions
Cooperative arrangements
System management

You flush the toilet, it goes away and everything is working OK, right? Don't bet on it! Most sewer systems are built to last about 20 years. When was yours built? Are you planning for the next upgrade? Are you properly equipped to operate and manage the system you have?

Drinking Water

Regulatory compliance requirements
In the post 9/11 world, is your water system as safe and reliable as it can be?

How is your water system classified? Would you know if your water system meets regulatory requirements? Don't find out the hard way what can go wrong with your system—learn to protect your community's water.

Energy Issues

Energy loans for cities or schools
Efficient energy consumption in municipal operations
Low-Income weatherization programs
Are new technologies useful in your community?

How can increasing energy efficiency save your community dollars? Learn about energy programs now available to your community.

User Charge Analysis

Key financial health indicators for utility systems
System finances (Costs and Revenues 101)
User Charge Analysis: What is it? Why do it?
Learn how YOU can easily use our free user charge software to analyze and fix your system finances.

Are your water and sewer revenues adequate to meet your operating costs? For 1/3 of all small communities, they are not. Do you have adequate reserves? Most do not. What does technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity mean? How does it affect your operations? In today's trying economic times, funding for system upgrades is becoming more and more difficult for everyone! Learn how to analyze and improve your system's TMF capacity to ensure a brighter financial future.

Stormwater

Stormwater - what and why
Planning and citizen involvement
Stormwater management strategies and techniques
Phase II stormwater requirements

Does your community require developers to use "best management practices" (BMPs) during construction activities? Do you know what a BMP is? Stormwater management is not just for the big cities any longer. Phase II requirements will impact many medium-sized Missouri cities too. Smaller Missouri communities should also start to consider a planning process for stormwater management, or they will be left behind in their attempts to remain desirable places in which people want to live and operate businesses.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Assistance Office
Environmental Management Institute
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 526-6627 or 1-800-361-4827
Fax: (573) 526-5808
Home Page: <http://www.dnr.state.mo.us/oac/lgov.htm>
e-mail: oac@mail.dnr.state.mo.us

